

value, mutilated as it is. It would be priceless indeed, could we recover enough of the upper surface to read it without doubt or hesitation. The number of letters on the monument was a little over 1,000. The number preserved is 669. Subjoined is the translation given by M. Clermont Ganneau, June, 1870:—

"I am Mesa, son of Chamosgad, King of Moab, the Dibonite. | My father reigned thirty years, and I have reigned after my father. | And I have built this sanctuary for Chamos in Qarha [sanctuary of salvation], for he has saved me from all aggressors and has made me look upon all my enemies with contempt. |

"Omri was King of Israel, and oppressed Moab during many days, and Chamos was irritated at his aggressions. | And his son succeeded him, and he said, he also, 'I will oppress Moab,' | In my days I said 'I will . . . him . . . . and I will visit him and his house.' | And Israel was ruined, ruined for ever. Omri gained possession of the land of Medeba. | And he dwelt there . . . [Ahab] his son lived forty years, and Chamos made him [perish] in my time. |

"Then I built Baal Meon and constructed Qiriathaim. |

"And the men of Gad dwelt in the country of [Ataro]th from ancient times, and the King of Israel had built the city of Ataroth. | I attacked the city and I took it,—and I killed all the people of the city, as a spectacle to Chamos and to Moab, | and I carried away from there the . . . and I dragged it to the ground before the face of Chamos at Qeriath, | and I brought there the men of Saron (or of Chofen) and the men of Maharouth (?).

"And Chamos said to me, 'Go ; take Nebah from Israel.' | I went by night, and I fought against the city from the dawn to midday, | and I took it : and I killed all, seven thousand [men, and I carried away with me] the women and the young girls ; for to Astar Chamos belongs the consecration of women ; | and I brought from there the vessels of